

JAGUARS AND JUNGLES



JUNE 2018

LIVING

STREETS

LET'S
WALK TO
SCHOOL

Did
you
know?



The jaguar is the third largest big cat after lions and tigers and the largest big cat in the Americas.

Jaguars are most at home in jungles and rainforest and are good swimmers.

A jaguar's bite is stronger than a lion's and it crushes the skulls of its prey with its strong jaws

AIM

To learn some information about jaguars and create a poem about them.

OBJECTIVES

- To find out about how jaguars live in the rainforests and jungles of South America
- To read a poem about a big cat and select words and descriptions that would fit a jaguar
- To create and edit a poem about a jaguar and give and receive feedback

TIMING 45 mins

RESOURCES

Pictures of jaguars, a copy of The Tyger by William Blake, paper and pencils/pens.

CURRICULUM LINKS

England **ENGLISH**

Wales **ENGLISH/WELSH**

Scotland **ENGLISH/GAELIC**

We are Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking. These learning resources support participation in WOW, the year-round walk to school challenge.

For further information on WOW and the full set of learning resources, visit www.livingstreets.org.uk/walktoschool

Get in touch: walktoschool@livingstreets.org.uk 020 7377 4900

JAGUARS AND JUNGLES

LESSON PLAN



INTRODUCTION

Talk about jaguars and their similarities to and differences from other large cats. Like tigers, they can swim and like all big cats are carnivores who prey on smaller mammals by stalking. The jaguar's strong jaws crush its prey to death and they have the strongest bite of all the big cats. The jaguar is spotted like a leopard but stockier and, like the tiger, can camouflage itself against its surroundings. The Inca revered the jaguar as a god, like the Egyptians revered domestic cats. In this activity, the children will write a poem about a jaguar.

DEVELOPMENT

Read *The Tyger* by William Blake and talk about the imagery. He uses words to describe how terrifying the tiger is. Look at the rhyme scheme of AABB and the way the poet asks questions about the tiger. Look at a film clip of a jaguar (search YouTube for examples) and then, as a class, brainstorm some words to describe a jaguar – how it moves, looks, attacks, creeps, stalks. Now ask each child to create their own jaguar poem. They might use *The Tyger* as inspiration and ask questions about the jaguar or use some of the class descriptions to create a word picture. They might use a rhyme scheme or use free verse but the idea is to capture the feel of the jaguar as it roams the Amazonian rainforests. Encourage the children to re-read their lines and edit for clarity and best vocabulary. Think about adding in some wow words to make the poem powerful.

PLENARY

In pairs, ask the children to read their poems to each other and give feedback on how it made them feel, whether the descriptions worked and whether they could see the jaguar in their minds. Ask one or two children to read their poems to the class and encourage the class to give feedback on specific words or descriptions that worked well.

EXTENSION

Our domestic pets are distantly related to the big cats so encourage the children on the walk to school to observe any neighbourhood cats and try to spot any behaviours or movements that are similar to a big cat's. Even though they are smaller and domesticated, they still retain their wild instinct and you can see this in the way that cats stalk (even if they are stalking a toy or a leaf), in the way that they are alert for signs of danger and how their markings can help them blend in with their surroundings.

If you require these learning resources in Welsh please email wales@livingstreets.org.uk